

REMARKS

Claims 21-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 are canceled and claims 21-36 are newly added. Reconsideration in view of above-outlined amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement, filed on March 16, 2001, fails to comply with 27 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Applicants resubmitted the references in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement along with English Abstracts on May 20, 2004. Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed memory is directed to non-function, inoperative subject matter. In response, claims 12-15 are cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 8-15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, claims 3, 8-15 and 20 are cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0051930 to Nakamura. Claims 9, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of IEEE 1394 Standard and Fuller. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response, claims 1-20 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections are now moot.

Nakamura discloses an information processing apparatus for controlling an electronic device connected on a network. The processing apparatus includes a device attribute information obtaining part for obtaining device attribute information about the electronic device from the electronic device through the network. The processing apparatus further

includes an operation range assigning part for assigning the operation range of each user for the electronic device corresponding to the device attribute information obtained by the device attribute information obtaining part and storing the assigned operation range. The processing apparatus also includes a controlling part for controlling the electronic device through the network in the operation range that has been assigned by the operation range assigning part.

By contrast, newly added claim 21 is directed to a method of controlling a device connected to a network. The device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network. The device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to the network. The method includes selecting one of a first mode and a second mode. In the first mode, the second control command has priority over the first control command. In the second mode, both the first and second control commands are executable. Upon selecting the first mode, the second control command being received to execute it, and the first control command being rejected. Upon selecting the second mode, any of the first and second control commands being received to execute it, wherein the different device is configured to be registered. The method further includes the device being configured to reject a control command from the registered device in the first mode. In the second mode, the device being configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device. In the second mode, the device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command if this command is sent from the registered device.

Nakamura does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 21. Unlike Nakamura, which requires the inputting of a password, the claimed conditional rejection of the control command is not based on a password. The IEEE 1394 standard and

Fuller fail to disclose this deficiency in Nakamura. Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

By contrast, newly added claim 25 is directed to a method of controlling a device connected to a network. The device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network. The device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to the network. The method includes selecting one of a first mode and a second mode. In the first mode, the second control command having a priority over the first control command. In the second mode, both the first and second control commands are executable. Upon selecting the first mode, the second control command being received to execute it, and the first control command being rejected. Upon selecting the second mode, any of the first and second control commands being received to execute it, wherein the different device is configured to be registered. The method further includes the device being configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device in the first mode. Also in the first mode, visual device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command if this command is sent from the registered device. In the second mode, the device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command.

Nakamura does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 25. Unlike Nakamura, which requires the inputting of a password, the claimed conditional execution of the control command is not based on a password. The IEEE 1394 standard and Fuller fail to disclose this deficiency in Nakamura. Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

By contrast, newly added claim 29 is directed to an apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device being configured to provide one or more control commands. The apparatus

comprises a network interface configured to receive the control command. The network interface being configured to execute processing corresponding to the received control command. The apparatus also includes a device controller having a first mode in which a self control is preferential, and a second mode in which a control by another is acceptable. The device controller includes a first portion configured to reject the control command from the device in the first mode, whereby the apparatus can control oneself but cannot be controlled by the device. The device controller includes a second portion configured to accept the control command from the device in the second mode, such that the apparatus can control oneself and can be controlled by the device. The device controller includes a third portion configured to register a prescribed device. The device controller also includes a fourth portion configured to reject the control command from the device in the first mode. A fifth portion of the device controller is configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device, even in the second mode. Finally, a sixth portion of the control device is configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command sent from the registered prescribed device.

Nakamura does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 29. As discussed above, Nakamura requires the inputting of a password. A password is not required in the claimed apparatus to permit the claimed conditional rejection of the control command. As such, Nakamura does not disclose the claimed device controller. The IEEE 1394 standard and Fuller fail to disclose this deficiency in Nakamura. Claims 30-32 depend from claim 29 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

By contrast, newly added claim 33 is directed to an apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device that is configured to provide one or more control commands. The apparatus includes a network interface configured to receive the control command and a device controller. The network interface being configured to execute processing corresponding to


the received control command. The device controller having a first mode in which a self control is preferential, and a second mode in which a control by another is acceptable. The device controller has a first portion configured to reject the control command from the device in the first mode, such that the apparatus can control oneself but cannot be controlled by the device. The device controller also includes a second portion configured to accept the control command from the device in the second mode, such that the apparatus can control oneself and can be controlled by the device. A third portion is configured to register the device. A fourth portion is configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device in the first mode. A fifth portion is configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command sent from the registered device, even in the first mode. Finally, a sixth portion is configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command in the second mode.

Nakamura does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 33. As discussed above, Nakamura requires the inputting of a password. A password is not required in the claimed apparatus to permit the claimed conditional execution of the control command. As such, Nakamura does not disclose the claimed device controller. The IEEE 1394 standard and Fuller fail to disclose this deficiency in Nakamura. Claims 34-36 depend from claim 33 and are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims define subject matter that is patentable over the prior art cited of record. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

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